

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

LAND CLEARING

(acre)
CODE 460

DEFINITION

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

material not be salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be according to applicable state laws and with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

PURPOSE

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

The cleared area shall be left in a neat and slightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

The plan shall provide for the measures necessary to protect the cleared area from erosion.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used according to its capabilities.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be explored.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration.
2. The impact of soil settling on the variation in rates of runoff immediately after clearing.

Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.